ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

1   Each of duplicated incoming line cards, connected to respective

2   input ports of a self-routing switch, receives an incoming packet,

3   determines an output port of the switch based on an address contained in

4   the packet using routing information stored in a routing table, converts the

5   packet into intra-node cells of fixed length and forwards the cells to the

6   switch so that the cells are routed to the output port. Each of duplicated

7   outgoing line cards, connected to output ports of the switch, receives intra-

8   node cells from the switch, converts the cells into a packet, forwards the

9   packet to an outgoing transmission line, and monitors the outgoing

10   transmission line. A fault indication is sent to the incoming line cards if a

11   fault condition is detected in the monitored line. Each incoming line card

12   responds to this indication for updating its table so that traffic is routed to

13   a normally operating outgoing line.